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PTQ1575

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ACTION EB-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-00	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	INL-00	DEAE-00
	WHA-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	OIGO-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VC-00
	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01	VCE-00	AC-01	DCP-01	NSAE-00
	OES-01	PM-00	ACE-00	SCT-00	IRM-00	TEST-00	ASDS-01
	EPAE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/007W

-----DA6E35 162323Z /38

P 162320Z AUG 02
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0472
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
SECDEF WASHDC
NSC WASHDC
DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL
JOINT STAFF WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
DIRONDCP WASHDC
DOE HQS FORRESTAL BLDG WASHINGTON DC

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SENSITIVE

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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EPET, PTER, MASS, PREL, PGOV, EAID, SNAR, ASEC, CO
SUBJECT: PIPELINE BOMBINGS BEGIN AGAIN

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED, PLEASE PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

1. (SBU) AFTER A SIX-MONTH PERIOD IN WHICH THE CANO LIMON PIPELINE HAD ONLY BEEN BOMBED 12 TIMES, THE PIPELINE WAS HIT FIVE TIMES IN THE WEEK AROUND THE AUGUST 7TH INAUGURATION OF COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT ALVARO URIBE. WHILE NUMEROUS THEORIES EXIST FOR WHY THE ATTACKS ON THE CANO LIMON PIPELINE HAVE BEEN LOWER THIS YEAR THAN LAST YEAR, THESE MOST RECENT

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
DATE/CASE ID: 02 JUL 2004 200303455

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ATTACKS DEMONSTRATE THAT TERRORIST GROUPS STILL HAVE THE ABILITY AND MOTIVATION TO ATTACK THE PIPELINE. EMBASSY INTERLOCUTORS FROM BRITISH PETROLEUM ALSO INDICATE THAT THE OCENSA PIPELINE, WHICH CARRIES BRITISH PETROLEUM'S OIL, WAS RUPTURED ON AUGUST 5, CREATING A SUBSTANTIAL SPILL, AND WAS DENTED AGAIN ON AUGUST 8. THE ATTACKS ON THE OCENSA PIPELINE ARE BEING BLAMED ON THE FARC.

2. (SBU) REPRESENTATIVES FROM OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM INFORMED ECONOFFS PRODUCTION AT THE CANO LIMON FIELDS HAD BEEN SHUT DOWN FROM JUNE 30 TO JULY 21 AS A RESULT OF DAMAGE TO THE PIPELINE CAUSED BY A LANDSLIDE. PRIOR TO THAT PRODUCTION HAD CONTINUED ALMOST UNINTERRUPTED SINCE LATE FEBRUARY. (NOTE: DUE TO ATTACKS ON ELECTRICAL PYLONS THAT PROVIDE ELICTRICITY TO THE ELECTRIC PUMPS AT THE WELL HEADS PUMPING WAS SUSPENDED FOR SEVERAL DAYS IN MARCH. END NOTE.) THESE MOST RECENT ATTACKS CLOSED IT FROM AUGUST 3 UNTIL AUGUST 15.

3. (SBU) FROM JANUARY 2002 THROUGH JUNE 2002, THERE WERE 22
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ATTACKS ON THE CANO LIMON PIPELINE. IN ADDITION, 42 ATTACKS WERE THWARTED THANKS TO INCREASED OPERATIONS BY THE COLMIL. EMBASSY CONTACTS OFFER SEVERAL THEORIES FOR WHY THE ATTACKS HAVE DROPPED FROM LAST YEAR'S LEVEL. SO FAR THIS YEAR, 45 SUSPECTED TERRORISTS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED THANKS TO THE PRESENCE OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INVESTIGATOR GENERAL'S OFFICE IN ARAUCA (ONLY 3 TERRORISTS HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN THE PAST FIFTEEN YEARS). ANOTHER POSSIBLE EXPLANATION IS THAT THE ENDING OF THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE IN FEBRUARY MAY HAVE FORCED THE FARC TO SHIFT RESOURCES TO OTHER FRONTS. MOREOVER, THIS SPRING HAS WITNESSED HEAVIER THAN USUAL RAINFALL, WHICH MAY HAVE DISSUADED WOULD-BE ATTACKERS. NO DOUBT, THE POSITIVE RESULTS EXPERIENCED SO FAR THIS YEAR HAVE BEEN A COMBINATION OF SEVERAL FACTORS. HOWEVER, THE UNDERLYING FACTORS THAT LED TO THE CRISIS IN THE REGION, ABJECT POVERTY AND THE ABSENCE OF STATE PRESENCE, STILL EXIST.
PATTERSON

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